March 14, 1977

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Rt. 12
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dr. Mr. Weisberg:

Many thanks for your letter of March 11, kindly granting me permission to quote from FRAME-UP in my own volume on the assassination of Dr. King. It has been, and will be, invaluable to my research into the entire matter.

I am somewhat in awe at actually being in correspondence with an assassination resarcher of your caliber and standing. The murder of Dr. King occurred when I was 17 years-old, and I was somewhat suspicious of the official version from the first, but it was my reading of FRAME-UP which really "put it all together" for me, and convinced me that there was more at issue than the usual bureaucratic clumsiness. Since reading your book, I have turned a more critical eye on the works of other authors dealing with the Ray/King case, and have found them sadly wanting. In fact, a searching critique of the other authors' dubious contributions will comprise the major underpinning of my own volume.

The deceitful scam executed on the American public by William Bradford Huie and Clay Blair pales into insignificance in comparison with the more recent big-sale books produced by Gerold Frank and George McMillan. I have found, as you are undoubtedly aware, that both books are riddled with holes ranging from petty inconsistencies to blatant fabrications. Frank for example, presents two totally different and contradictory descriptions of the murder itself, separated by some 200 pages, and hopes that the reader will forgetfully accept both in the ensuing jungle of verbiage. Further, Frank claims as a source for his many groundless contentions of "fact", certain "FBI reports on the case." I have in my possession, a letter from Clarence Kelly informing me that no author at any time had access to said reports and documents--that is, prior to your own suit against the government. In short, Frank lied in print, and got away with it: hardly a first in the record of the political killings, unfortunately.

For these reasons, as well as the recent Justice Department report "clearing" the FBI and the Department itself of any cover-up, I will, as your suggest, view the findings of the Congressional committee with a highly critical eye. I am only a novice of this business of probing the assassinations, but already my cynicism is approaching 100%. I can well imagine how you must feel after more than a decade in the uphill fight.

I began my book on the Ray case some time ago, but have recently changed jobs and residences, and have returned to work on it now with a passion. I now work as an assistant writer for Don Pendleton, author of the Executioner series of novels. This assignment keeps body and soul together while allowing me a great deal of time to spend on my own

research and writing.

Well, I know how busy you must be with your own projects, and I will take no more of your time. Again, many thanks for your kind permission concerning the FRAME-UP quotations. I would be very pleased if we might correspond on these or any other subjects from time to time, as I have the highest regard for your work, and consider you as the "bulldog" of the assassination investigators, with all the favorable connotations of that term regarding tenacity and courage. Enclosed you will find a money order for $10.75 covering payment for a copy of POST MORTEM, and I will eagerly await delivery, as well as the publication of any and all other works you may produce.

Again, thanks, and keep up the good fight! I remain,

Yours truly,

Mike Newton

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